

beyond the rest, and all are similar in shape to those of the Grouse, though showing the Pheasant character in being much narrower at the ends.

Below the characters of *Phasianus* are more pronounced. The chin, throat and upper neck are white, lower neck and breast black, sides buffy. The bare space about the eye is somewhat restricted, but similar to that in the young Pheasant. Tarsus about midway in length between the two genera, feathered for about three quarters of an inch below the tibia with whitish slaty. The spurs are present as small knobs only.

The bird being mounted, measurement was difficult, but it had every appearance of being larger than either of its parents.

Since writing the above I have learned of three other specimens, all similar to the one above described. Though I do not know the locality from which two of them came, the third, which was shot at Salem, could not have been from the same brood. All of these four specimens were shot within the last two months (October and November, 1898), and the report that such crosses are not uncommon would seem to have some foundation. The imported Pheasant often crosses with domestic fowls. — A. W. ANTHONY, *Portland, Oregon.*

**The Number of Rectrices in Grouse.** — In my recent paper on the Feather-tracts of North American Grouse and Quail (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXI, pp. 641-653), under the genus *Lagopus*, I made the statement that the rectrices are always 18. Mr. Manly Hardy of Brewer, Maine, has very kindly written me that his experience proves the statement to be an error. He says that in the last 20 years he has shot 15 or 20 Ruffed Grouse having 20 rectrices, and, he adds, "I have in every case found those having 20 rectrices to be exceptionally large males. While I cannot prove it, still it is my belief that none have this added pair until they are several years old. I well remember shooting three old 'drummers' in one afternoon in November, two of which had 20 tail-feathers. . . . One weighed 31 and the other 32 ounces. . . . Old cocks usually weigh from 24 to 26 ounces." It seems to me that these facts are of great importance in helping us to decide whether the Gallinæ with 12 rectrices are in that respect nearer the ancestral form than those with a larger number. At least they indicate that the number of rectrices may be *increased*, as well as *decreased*, and admit the possibility that increase in number of rectrices may be a form of specialization. — HUBERT LYMAN CLARK, *Amherst, Mass.*

**The Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) in Somerville, Mass.** — Mr. F. H. Hosmer (who assures me that he knows the bird well) informs me that he saw three Turkey Buzzards, very high up in the air, in Somerville, Mass., on Sept. 25, 1898. They were headed south. On the 24th strong southwest winds prevailed in this vicinity, previous to which there had been high winds at the south. — GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*